

SENATE RESOLUTION 144

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Ray C. Albright
of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that the members of this General Assembly learned of the passing of Ray C. Albright of Chattanooga, a highly successful businessman and civic leader who served his fellow citizens with distinction as a member of the General Assembly for twenty-six years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Paint Rock, Alabama, Ray Albright was the son of Raymond Albright and Mabel Ramsay and graduated from Central High School and the Vanderbilt School of Banking; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected businessman, Mr. Albright enjoyed an illustrious career with Union Planters Bank and was serving as vice president there at the time of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, humbly offering himself for public service, Ray Albright served in the Tennessee General Assembly for twenty-six years; he won election to the House of Representatives in 1968 and to the Senate in 1970 and rendered sterling service as a vital member of the Chattanooga and Hamilton County delegation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Albright was a champion for the environment and aided those who could not help themselves as he fought the federal government's TNT plant and foundries in downtown Chattanooga to win passage of what would become a national model for clean air legislation and move the city from being one of the dirtiest in the country to one of the cleanest; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed by President Richard Nixon to the President's Committee on the Environment after sponsoring a bill to require a certain percentage of recycled steel be used in the construction of bridges; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate for public education, Mr. Albright sponsored legislation during his tenure in the House of Representatives to prohibit discrimination against entrance into schools based on race, creed, religion, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the Senate, Ray Albright served with distinction as Chair of the Senate Environment Committee and the Senate Education Committee, during which time he played a vital role in the passage of the Education Improvement Act of 1992, which established the Basic Education Program funding formula, value-added testing, and comprehensive education regulation reform; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the highlight of his legislative career was his sponsorship of the legislation that established Chattanooga State Technical College, which changed the school from an area vocational high school to a technical community college; and

WHEREAS, to recognize his efforts and contributions, the original building at Chattanooga State Technical College was named the Albright Omniplex in his honor, a most appropriate and fitting tribute; and

WHEREAS, after his service in the General Assembly, Ray Albright served as a member of the board of Erlanger Hospital and was also employed as a lobbyist, representing BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and the Small School Systems Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Albright was predeceased by his wife of fifty-nine years, Phyllis Longwith Albright; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Susan Albright Currie and her husband, Dan; his son, R. Chris Albright and his wife, Kristy; three grandchildren, Raegan Spencer, Megan Hoehn, and Paxton Albright; three great-grandchildren, Olivia Grace, Vivienne Graeme, and Jackson Phillip; and a brother, Robert Albright; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we should remember the purposeful life of this dedicated public servant, distinguished businessman, and exemplary human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Senator Ray C. Albright and his life of service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee and reflect fondly upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and extend our condolences to Senator Albright's family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.